

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1940

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PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR MS. WEIDENFELD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (FORD, GERALD R.)

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF: BRUSSELS 4532

1. DESCRIPTION OF MONCLOA PALACE IS AS FOLLOWS:
LOCATED NEXT TO THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF MADRID, THE PALACE OF LA MONCLOA IS ONE OF THE MOST
PICTURESQUE RESIDENCES ON THE CITY'S OUTSKIRTS. LA
MONCLOA IS SURROUNDED BY TREES AND HILLS, FACES RECREA-
TION PARK CASA DE CAMPO AND HAS A CLEAR VIEW OF THE
GUADARRAMA MOUNTAIN RANGE. DURING THE CIVIL WAR OF
1936-39, THE PALACE WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED BECAUSE IT
FORMED PART OF THE FRONT LINES AND WAS CONTINUALLY ATTACKED
AND OCCUPIED IN THE BATTLES IN THAT PART OF MADRID. A
NEW BUILDING WAS CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN 1946-53 NEAR THE
OLD SITE BUT ON A HIGHER LOCATION. THE SQUARE FLOOR
DESIGN, UTILIZING THREE SIDES AND AN OPEN PATIOED FOURTH
SIDE, INCLUDES THREE FLOORS AND A BASEMENT. THE INTERIOR
WAS DECORATED PREDOMINANTLY IN THE NEOCLASSICAL AND IMPERIAL
STYLES AND DISPLAYS ANTIQUE (ROCOCO) FURNITURE, TAPESTRIES,
CLOCKS, CHANDELIERS, AND CHINA-ALL FURNISHED BY THE
PATRIMONIO NACIONAL. THE PALACE ALSO INCLUDES ALL THE
MODERN CONVENIENCES AND IS UTILIZED AS THE OFFICIAL RESI-
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DENCE FOR IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES AND CHIEFS OF STATE WHO

VISIT SPAIN.

2. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PRINCE JUAN CARLOS IS CONTAINED IN BIOGRAPHIC HANDBOOK "PORTUGAL SAPIN" ISSUED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA/CR BH 5.4) OFFICE OF CENTRAL REFERENCE.

3. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PRINCESS SOPHIA IS AS FOLLOWS: PRINCESS SOPHIA OF GREECE, 36, IS THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE LATE KING PAUL AND QUEEN FREDERIKA AND SISTER OF KING CONSTANTINE II. SOPHIA AND PRINCE JUAN CARLOS OF SPAIN WERE MARRIED IN ATHENS IN A COMBINED GREEK ORTHODOX AND ROMAN CATHOLIC CEREMONY IN MAY 1962. (SOPHIA ADOPTED THE ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH IN JUNE 1962.) SOPHIA WAS TRAINED AS A PEDIATRIC NURSE BEFORE HER MARRIAGE. THE PRINCESS SHARES HER HUSBAND'S LOVE OF SPORTS, ESPECIALLY SAILING. SINCE ESTABLISHING THEIR RESIDENCE AT THE PALACE OF ZARZUELA IN MADRID, PRINCE JUAN CARLOS AND PRINCESS SOPHIA HAVE TOURED SPAIN EXTENSIVELY. THE ROYAL COUPLE HAS THREE CHILDREN: ELENA, CHRISTINA AND FELIPE. THE PRINCESS SPEAKS FLUENT SPANISH, GERMAN AND ENGLISH, IN ADDITION TO HER NATIVE GREEK.

4. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON SRA FRANCO IS AS FOLLOWS: GENERAL FRANCO WAS MARRIED IN 1923 TO THE FORMER CARMEN POLO Y MARTINEZ VALDES, THE DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY ASTURIAN MERCHANT. THEIR ONLY CHILD, A DAUGHTER CALLED CARMENCITA (MARIA DEL CARMEN FRANCO Y POLO), IS MARRIED TO PROMINENT MADRID CARDIOLOGIST, DR. CRISTOBAL MARTINEZ BORDIU ORTEGA Y BASCARAN, MARQUES DE VILLAVERDE. THE FRANCOES HAVE SEVEN GRANDCHILDREN. SOMETIMES APPRECIATIVELY REFERRED TO AS "LA GENERALISSIMA", MRS. FRANCO REPUTEDLY HAS ENJOYED FULL PARTNERSHIP WITH HER HUSBAND AND HAS HAD MORE INFLUENCE ON HIS DECISIONS THAN SPANISH TRADITION ENCOURAGES. IN RECENT YEARS MRS. FRANCO HAS SUBSTITUTED FOR HER HUSBAND IN PUBLIC FUNCTIONS. SOME OF THE FAMILY FINANCIAL INTERESTS ARE IN HER NAME, E.G. REAL ESTATE. MRS. FRANCO DEVOTES A GREAT DEAL OF HER TIME TO CHARITY AND WILLINGLY LENDS HER NAME AND PRESENCE TO FUND DRIVES SUPPORTING SUCH INSTITUTIONS AS HOSPITALS, HOMES FOR THE AGED AND ORPHANAGES.

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BOTH ATTEND MASS SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK.

5. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON MRS. STABLER IS AS FOLLOWS: MISS EMILY ATKINSON WAS MARRIED TO WELLS STABLER, NOW AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, IN SALZBURG, AUSTRIA IN 1953. THEY HAVE FOUR CHILDREN (TWO GIRLS AGED 20 AND 19, TWO BOYS AGED 17 AND 17). ELDEST DAUGHTER IS STUDENT AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AND SECOND GIRL AT SKIDMORE COLLEGE. THE TWO BOYS

ATTEND ST. GEORGES SCHOOL, NEW PORT, R.I. MRS. STABLER
GREW UP IN BOSTON AND ATTENDED MILTON ACADEMY. SHE WORKED
FOR TWO YEARS FOR RADIO STATION IN GREENWICH, CONNECTICUT
PRODUCING AND VOICING A HALF-HOUR DAILY PROGRAM ("TOWN
TOPICS") AND LATER AS RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN INTERNATIONAL
INDUSTRIAL CONSULTING FIRM IN NEW YORK. PERSONAL INTERESTS:
PIANO-PLAYING AND MUSIC PERFORMANCES, FINE ARTS, ICE SKATING,
SKIING, TENNIS AND SWIMMING.
STABLER

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